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CPW Report No. 66 -- COMMUNIST CHINA

(Mar. 16 - 22, 1953)

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- 2 -

1. (1b) WORSHIP OF STALIN: Peking reported (Mar. 16) that Chinese cadres were studying works on Stalin under direction of the Communist Party, and added (Mar. 18) that publishing houses were producing millions of copies of Stalin's books. During the past three years 2 million copies had been imported from Russia, and more than 3.5 million copies printed locally. Peking said in numeral code (Mar. 18) that the Academy of Science planned a study of Stalin's works, and added (Mar. 20) that 50,000 Party members and cadres were studying Stalin documents.

Peking in numeral code (Mar. 17) transmitted a NEW CHINA NEWS AGENCY article entitled "Stalin Lives in the Hearts of Chinese Peasants," and urged peasants to "commemorate Stalin with deeds." Peking in numeral code (Mar. 20) carried a feature, "Stalin's Name is a Power to Overcome Difficulties," and stated (Mar. 19) that Calcutta and New Delhi Overseas Chinese mourned for Stalin.

Nanking reported (Mar. 18) that Wuhsien, Kiangsu, Party leaders planned to promote study of Stalin documents, with factory workers pledged to set aside time each morning for study. Wuhan announced (Mar. 17) that the Central-South Party Committee had ordered offices, schools, mines, and factories to study Stalin documents. Kunming said (Mar. 18) that Yunnan Party and Government leaders had mapped plans for widespread study.

Hofei (Mar. 16) broadcast an article by Sino-Soviet Friendship Association leader Li Ssu-nung saying that Stalin would continue to live in Chinese hearts, with his works guiding China. Crediting Stalin with leadership in China's liberation and economic construction, Li called for emulation of the USSR and consolidation of Sino-Soviet friendship. Shanghai announced (Mar. 17) that more than 400,000 spectators saw Stalin films in Shanghai. Chinching said (Mar. 20) that Liaosi masses held meetings to commemorate Stalin and passed resolutions to increase production in his memory.

2. (1c) RUSSIAN SUPERIORITY: Peking reported (Mar. 17) that Tientsin Manufacturing Company workers were using the Soviet method of trailer hauling. The workers of Northeast Machine Shop no. 11 had made an experimental model of a Soviet lathe. Peking asserted in numeral code (Mar. 17) that Southwest State Plant no. 2,749 had set up a "department for promotion of progressive Soviet experiences" which had introduced 137 techniques and saved more than 13 billion yuan. In Hangchow workers were emulating Soviet experiences in memory of Stalin.

Peking stated in numeral code (Mar. 16) that a fishing village in the Port Arthur area had demonstrated its love for Stalin by helping Soviet soldiers transport supplies. Fishermen offered assistance with coastal defenses and promised to "give all our strength in cooperating with our elder Soviet brothers." One fisherman said: "Although Stalin has passed away, his name will guide us. We pledge to unite with the Soviet people in following the road laid out for us by Lenin and Stalin."

Shanghai reported (Mar. 18) that Chapei waterworks employees reduced repair time through Soviet methods. Wuhan stated (Mar. 17) that Huachung steel mill workers included with their Stalin condolences a pledge to emulate Soviet techniques. Chungking said (Mar. 19) that Yunnan Hsinhua Cement Factory workers improved production by adopting Soviet firing methods.

3. (1c) DEBT TO THE SOVIET: Hofei (Mar. 16) broadcast Huainan, Anhwei, Party Secretary Li Ren-chi's article lamenting the loss of Stalin and asking miners to remember that Soviet experts helped develop the mines and taught progressive methods. Wuhan stated (Mar. 17) that Pinghsiang miners sent condolences and thanked the USSR for "Stalin's 30 years of aid and his sending of experts to China." Peking announced (Mar. 19) that Soviet equipment would be installed in the giant Southwest power plant which is to be completed this year.

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- 3 -

Tsinan reported (Mar. 16) that Shantung Political College students studying Stalin memorial documents now understood the solicitude of Stalin and the USSR for China's welfare and Soviet aid to China's construction, and pledged to become "loyal students of Stalin" and overcome their shortcomings "as Stalin would have wished." Shanghai asserted (Mar. 17) that the Chinese people gained liberation because they followed the path laid out by Stalin. Without Soviet help they could not now enjoy their great happiness.

Nanking announced (Mar. 18) that the 100th anniversary of Nanking's liberation by Taiping troops was being celebrated with an exhibition of pictorials and relics of the Taiping era depicting "China's struggle against feudalism and imperialist exploitation."

4. (2a) WAR BURDENS: Peking reported (Mar. 16) that more than 100 railway workers left Shanghai and Hangchow for Korea on Mar. 10 and 13. Canton said (Mar. 16) that Kwangtung workers had pledged to increase production and support the Resist America-Aid Korea movement in order to "smash the aggressive plots of the Americans." Peking said in numeral code (Mar. 19) that 12 Philadelphia residents refused to pay U.S. income taxes as a protest against the war in Korea. American soldiers were deserting in large numbers as U.S. war weariness grew.

5. (2c) TRADE AND PRODUCTION PROBLEMS: Peking in numeral code (Mar. 17) quoted TASS reports from Jakarta stating that Indonesia had opposed British and American plans for an embargo on Chinese trade. Peking (Mar. 18) reported the signing of a Sino-Pakistani trade agreement, and added (Mar. 19) that British attempts to restrict trade with China and Korea had seriously damaged the British economy.

Shanghai announced (Mar. 18) that China Merchandise Company cadres had met to discuss new trade plans and criticize 1952 shortcomings. Shanghai said (Mar. 19) that the Shanghai Sales Company would resume business operations on Sundays "for the convenience of the masses," while the Shanghai Bureau of Industry and Commerce had abolished the purchase permit system for private industrial and commercial concerns in order to "promote interurban trade."

Antung announced (Mar. 19) that the Yentai collieries had saved amounts equivalent to 135 tons of food by building coal cars from scrap metal.

6. (3a) STRENGTHENING PARTY CONTROL: Chinchow reported (Mar. 20) that Liaosi construction site cadres had attended classes on care of radios and operation of relay stations. Peking said (Mar. 20) that Southwest conservancy work had improved with correction of cadres' bureaucracy and authoritarianism.

7. (3a) BASIC CONSTRUCTION: Peking announced in numeral code (Mar. 19) that the National Coal Mining Equipment Conference approved priorities for basic construction needs. Peking reported (Mar. 18) that the Central-South China Electrical Supply Company was training 500 technical and administrative personnel.

Antung complained (Mar. 18) that only 2 out of 22 basic construction projects in Liacyang Hsien, Liactung, had completed surveying and design work by February. Mukden reported (Mar. 20) that Harbin and Heilungchiang province had sent out 27 inspection teams to check on progress in basic construction. Shanghai announced (Mar. 20) that 80 percent of local contractors had been approved for basic construction projects.

Peking said in numeral code (Mar. 16) that basic construction had "not been fully promoted." In North and East China only slightly more than four percent of total investments were in basic construction, with many coal mines left undeveloped. The Chiamusu, Sungchiang, power plant installed a 750 kilowatt generator and 10 kilometers of line without realizing that income never would cover operating costs. Many cadres were idle, while some were overworked.

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- 4 -

8. (3b) MARRIAGE LAW ENFORCEMENT: Peking in numeral code (Mar. 18) reported that the Fukien Marriage Law Committee had prohibited "forcible solutions to marriage problems."

Peking in numeral code (Mar. 20) transmitted a policy statement by Marriage Law Implementation Campaign Director Liu Ching-fan attacking attitudes responsible for poor implementation of the Law and a heavy divorce rate increase. Such terms as "Divorce Law" and "Woman's Law," and such statements as, "widows must find husbands and bigamists must be punished," illustrated these attitudes. Liu said that the Law was popular with the masses, who felt that "Chairman Mao takes care of all our affairs; besides land reform, he solves our family problems." Liu cautioned against easy divorce, laxity in punishing marital murders, and suggested that child marriages and concubinage need not be disturbed "unless necessary."

9. (4) IMPERIALIST ACTIVITIES: Peking declared in numeral code (Mar. 17) that the British were attempting to close all Overseas Chinese educational institutions in Singapore. Peking said in numeral code (Mar. 18) that Eisenhower planned to consolidate imperialist forces in Korea, Malaya, and Vietnam, create armies of "Free Asians" to fight "Communist Asians," and withdraw Americans from combat. As France objected to direct U.S.-Bao Dai negotiations, General Clark had gone to Vietnam to prove that the French were wasting supplies and hindering the war's progress.

Peking asserted in numeral code (Mar. 19) that "the U.S. plan to exploit Ceylon ran into a stone wall." America had unsuccessfully tried to "strangle freedom of trade" by sabotaging the China-Ceylon trade agreement and forcing Burma to ship rice to Ceylon. This experience should prove "highly significant to countries of Southeast Asia."

10. (4) BORDER MINORITIES: Peking announced in numeral code (Mar. 17) that People's Liberation Army personnel had started spring farming in Tibet. Peking claimed (Mar. 18) that more than 30 State Farms had been organized in Sikang, Kweichow, and Yunnan minority areas.

Chungking reported (Mar. 16) that last year 22 Chinping Hsien, Yunnan, minority groups developed 30,000 mou of land and harvested one-half million catties of cotton. However, Yunnan Hsien Banks erroneously stipulated that oxen loans could be granted only to poor farmers who were energetic producers with experience in cattle raising. Maladministration of cadres caused confusion and placed obstacles in the path of smooth farm loan distribution.

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